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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7939

BILL NUMBER: SB 591

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 14, 2005

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Psychologists Scope of Practice.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Miller

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: X **GENERAL**
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State

Summary of Legislation: This bill defines psychology testing. It provides that medical and psychological diagnosis and psychology testing are not included in certain therapists' practices. It prohibits psychology testing except by certain individuals. The bill also removes provisions concerning restricted psychology tests or instruments.

Effective Date: July 1, 2005.

Explanation of State Expenditures: This bill removes the requirement that the Psychology Board report a list of registered psychology tests to the Social Work Certification and Marriage and Family Therapists Credentialing Board, who may comment or object to the list. This provision could have a minimal fiscal impact if both boards' administrative burden is reduced.

Explanation of State Revenues: Current statute provides for certain types of professionals and volunteers to be considered exempt of the psychologist licensing law if they do not profess to be a psychologist. This bill adds school psychologists and removes volunteers from this exemption list, makes it so that licensed speech language pathologists, licensed physical therapists, and certified occupational therapists are not prohibited from performing psychology testing, and adds that licensed psychologists must have specific training before performing psychology testing. Anyone who performs psychology testing unlawfully commits a Class A misdemeanor.

Any of these provisions could potentially affect the number of violations that occur. If additional court cases occur and fines are collected, revenue to both the Common School Fund (from fines) and the state General

Fund (from court fees) would increase. The maximum fine for a Class A misdemeanor is \$5,000. However, any additional revenue would likely be small.

Explanation of Local Expenditures: *Penalty Provision:* A Class A misdemeanor is punishable by up to one year in jail.

Explanation of Local Revenues: *Penalty Provision:* If additional court actions occur and a guilty verdict is entered, local governments would receive revenue from court fees. However, any change in revenue would likely be small.

State Agencies Affected: Psychology Board; Social Work Certification and Marriage and Family Therapists Credentialing Board.

Local Agencies Affected: Trial courts, local law enforcement agencies.

Information Sources:

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